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Let's Curb Former CIA Agents

By MARY O'HARA

They are a little late getting around to it but the Central Intelligence Agency and its oversight sentinels in Congress are finally working on methods to prevent former U.S. agents from selling arms and expertise to international terrorists.

For five years the United States has been trying to build a case against former agents Edwin P. Wilson and Francis E. Terpil. At every turn there have been legal hurdles, making the law work for two despicable characters who are now fugitives.

A federal grand jury indicted them in April 1980 for various alleged violations resulting from their shipments of high explosives, delay-action timers, sensitive night-vision equipment and commando-training programs to Libya.

The case includes a charge that Wilson and Terpil attempted to carry out a \$1-million assassination contract against a critic of Libya's Moammar Khadafy.

It's scary to realize that sensitive government secrets were entrusted to Wilson and Terpil.



MISS O'HARA

ANOTHER DISTURBING element has come to light as both the House and the Senate move to clamp down on former CIA agents and their activities abroad.

Former CIA Deputy Director Vernon Walters said in an interview last week that there's "no way" to bar retired intelligence officials from doing business abroad without restricting the individual's freedom.

Mr. Walters, a retired general as well and now ambassador-at-large in the U.S. State Department, admitted he was paid \$300,000 this year by a company that specializes in selling sophisticated military technology to foreign countries.

The \$2-billion annual trade in U.S. weapons technology abroad has lured former CIA agents to cash in on their expertise and contacts.

CIA officials have told some key members of Congress that their lawyers are redrafting the agency's employment contract to include prohibitions against the sale of trade crafts to hostile foreign governments or terrorist organizations.

Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen of Texas has introduced a bill closing a loophole that has left the government powerless to prosecute Americans who help terrorists.

CIA AGENTS have been accused of many wicked acts, particularly by the Soviets, who have even charged them with contaminating Cuban wells with dengue-fever germs. The agents have also been caught napping in sensitive posts such as Iran.

But nothing can match in viciousness the deeds which some of its own notorious former agents have committed against the CIA and the United States.

The agency needs a complete overhaul but it's already obvious that William Casey isn't the director to do it.